मध्य प्रदेश में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग

1251. **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:** क्या खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश के जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कोई आंकलन किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इस संबंध में क्या क़दम उठाए गए हैं और इस उद्देश्य के लिए कुल कितनी धनराशि का निवेश किए जाने की संभावना है;

(घ) मध्य प्रदेश में रूग्ण खाद्य प्रसंस्करण इकाइयों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ङ) क्या सरकार का विचार इन इकाइयों को पुनर्जीवित करने का है; और

(च) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप कुमार राय): (क) से (च) खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय मध्य प्रदेश के जन-जातीय क्षेत्रों में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए स्वयं कोई आंकलन नहीं करता। लेकिन मंत्रालय अपनी योजना स्कीमों के तहत राज्य सरकारों, संस्थानों और संगठनों को ऐसे सर्वेक्षण/अध्ययन करने के लिए वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध कराता है। इस प्रकार के अध्ययन के सिलसिले में मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार/संगठनों से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ।

मंत्रालय स्वयं किसी राज्य में किसी खाद्य प्रसंस्करण यूनिट की स्थापना नहीं करता। लेकिन खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग में पूँजी-निवेश को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार ने नीतियों को उदारीकृत किया है और अल्कोहल पेयों के किण्वन और आसवन तथा लघु क्षेत्र के लिए आरक्षित मदों को छोड़कर सभी खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों को लाइसेंसमुक्त कर दिया है। घरेलू/विदेशी/अनिवासी भारतीय पूँजी-निवेश को बढ़ावा देने, वित्तीय रियायतें उपलब्ध कराने आदि जैसे विभिन्न अन्य उपाय भी किए गए हैं।

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग संगठित और असंगठित दोनों क्षेत्रों में है इसलिए सभी उद्योगों की संख्या, इनमें रुग्ण उद्योग भी शामिल हैं को राज्यवार सूचना केन्द्रीय रूप से नहीं रखी जाती। रुग्ण यूनिटें पुन: चालू/बन्द होने के लिए औद्योगिक तथा वित्तीय पुनर्निर्माण बोर्ड से सम्पर्क कर सकती है।

Funds for Development of Women and Children in Gujarat

1252. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMAN-BHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any programme for development of women and children in rural areas of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the funds released by the Central Government under this programme during the last three years;

(c) whether the Gujarat Government has requested for more funds for this purpose; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and the future programme of the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment is implementing the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) programme in the rural areas of Gujarat.

(b) Central funds amounting to Rs. 2.68 crores were released to various DRDAs of Gujarat under the programme during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A request has been received from the State Government a few days ago for additional sanction of 2000 groups over and above the allocation for 1033 groups f-3 for this year. The same is under consideration.

Gas Reserves in India

1253. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "India has massive gas reserve", published in the Financial Express dated the 24th March, 1996;

(b) whether the Texas-based Geoscientist, Mr. N. Mokogon, has been furnished with the seismic data for assessing the gas reserves, reportedly lying below the waters of the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal;

(c) the assessment of the gas reserves by him after analysis of the seismic data; and

(d) what is Government's time-bound action plan to estimate the reserves and to commercially tap the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, Dr. Y. Mokogon was shown a few seismic lines of deep water areas of the Arabian sea and Bay of Bengal to elicit his opinion about gas hydrates.

(c) Dr. Mokogon was of the view that Gas hydrates will be in the deep water areas of western and eastern coast of India. However, no quantitative assessment of gas reserves from gas hydrates has been possible with the limited data available.

(d) A preliminary study of Gas hydrates in deep water areas of India is being taken up and the quantum of Gas hydrate reserves can be assessed after the completion of this and subsequent studies. Action is also in hand to acquire the expertise from overseas agencies known to be leaders in the field of Gas hydrate studies.

Schemes to Assist Rural Artisans

1254. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any schemes to assist poorer sections of artisans like weavers, potters and other people, following trades in rural areas;

(b) if so, the deails of the schemes and the financial assistance provided to such rural craftsmen;

(c) whether Government propose to modify the schemes to suit local requirements; and

(d) whether the DRDA has authority in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. This Ministry is implementing the scheme of Supply of Improved Tool Kits to Rural Artisans like potters, carpenters, cobblers, stone craftsmen, blacksmiths etc. except weavers, tailors, needle workers and 'Bidi' workers.

(b) Under the Scheme, the rural artisans living below the poverty line are to be given improved tools to enable them to enhance the quality/quantity/marketability of their products and reduce their drudgory.

The average cost of a tool kits is Rs. 2000 and the exact unit cost is to be fixed by the DRDA concerned. The artisans are required to contribute 10% of the cost of the tool kits as their contribution with the balance 90% being met as subsidy from the Government of India. The use of power driven toolkits upto the cost of Rs. 4500 has also been permitted under the scheme. Beyond this, it should be linked to loan under IRDP. At the district level the DRDA is the nodal Agency.

Financial assistance provided to rural craftsman since inception of the scheme is as under:-

Year	Financial Assistance provided (Rs. in crores)
1992-93	16.85
1993-94	23.22
1994-95	29.00
1995-96	40.00

(c) At present there is no such proposal to modify the present scheme.

(d) Question does not arise.

Encouraging private builders in Construction of Houses

1255. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the housing problem in urban areas particularly in Delhi, Government propose to encourage private builders in construction of houses;

(b) if so, the present housing policy of Government in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the problem of housing in urban areas would be solved by assigning the task to private builders?